

Africans Adjourn Summit

2 Blocs Fail To Agree on Angola Deal

By David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Foreign Service

ADDIS ABABA, Jan. 13—African chiefs of state broke up their extraordinary summit conference on the Angola crisis at dawn today after totally failing to reach agreement on any concrete steps leading toward a settlement of the civil war there.

"We have failed," said Kenya Vice President Daniel Arap Moi as he emerged visibly distraught from the conference hall. "It's a pity I'm very sad, but there is no agreement. We have failed Angola."

The summit came to an abrupt close as dawn was breaking over Africa Hall after an all-night effort to break a deadlock between two blocs of 22 states each, supporting opposing factions in the civil war. Only Ethiopia and Uganda remained officially neutral.

Reaction to the total absence of any agreement varied greatly among delegates, but outside observers felt that on balance the bloc supporting the Marxist faction in Angola had won less than it had probably anticipated while the bloc supporting the pro-West forces had lost less than it probably feared.

Despite the failure of the summit meeting to open the way to an immediate settlement of the civil war, the results were at least a partial victory for the United States and even South Africa, and partial setback to the Soviet Union and Cuba.

In a brief statement to the

press, the official Organization of African Unity spokesman, Peter Onu, said that the summit meeting of African chiefs of state and government had adjourned after "seriously considering" the Angolan problem and having decided to request the body's nine-nation executive bureau to "follow the problem closely."

In effect, the Angola issue was buried in committee for reconsideration at the next regular African summit session, scheduled to be held in Mauritius this summer.

But the facade of African unity was spared, and this new equilibrium of forces may be the basis for a future com-

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promise solution among the three Angolan factions.

The summit ended with no point of agreement anywhere on two opposing resolutions, a Nigerian one demanding the outright recognition of the Soviet- and Cuban-supported Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and a Senegalese one calling for the formation of government of national unity among the three factions.

The Popular Movement did not gain official recognition by the African organization, as most U.S. officials had feared, and South Africa was not specifically condemned for its "aggression" against Angola, as had been the foregoing conclusion up until the last moment.

The Soviet Union and Cuba, on the other hand, failed to see the Popular Movement seated at the summit as the sole legitimate government of Angola or to gain any official recognition and praise for their military assistance to this group.

But they were also spared any resolution condemning the presence of their troops in Angola or calling for their withdrawal as the anti-Popular Movement bloc had demanded.

Among the three warring Angolan factions, only the president of the pro-Western National Front for the Liberation of Angola, Holden Roberto, openly admitted his total disappointment with the summit.

He told reporters upon leaving here for Kinshasa, Zaire, that the African

organization had proved to be more concerned with preserving the facade of its unity than with resolving the Angola crisis.

In fact, observers here felt that without the support of the African body for a government of national unity now, the National Front might be frozen out of any future coalition government following its recent multiple setbacks on the battlefield.

On the other hand, Popular Movement spokesman Luis Almeida called the results of the summit "positive."

"Now we know who is who," he said, referring to those countries that showed

themselves ready to support the Popular Movement at the meeting and to those opposing it. "I think by the next summit we will take our seat inside the African organization."

(In Luanda, Sen. Lucio Lara, a leading member of the Popular Movement's Politbureau, said the conference results had not weakened the movement's stand against negotiations with its two Angolan rivals, the London Financial Times reported.

("We are at war with South Africa and Zaire," Lara said, calling the opposing Angolan forces "puppets." He said the Popular Movement would

negotiate for a cease-fire only with Kinshasa or Pretoria.)

Whether the Popular Movement will in fact gain recognition at the next summit remains unclear. Normally, a newly independent state needs only a simple majority—24 votes—to gain admission.

The Popular Movement has been recognized now by 22 African states plus Ethiopia, which has said it would formally grant recognition after the summit conference ended.

But there are now some doubts, in light of the diplomatic maneuvering here, whether all those who have so far recognized the Popular

Movement will necessarily vote for its admission in the case of a close vote.

Meanwhile, Jonas Savimbi, leader of the pro-Western National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which is allied with the National Front, gave a mixed assessment of the meeting's results just before his departure.

"It was a defeat in the sense that we had expected a cease-fire, even if they (African leaders) could not go any further," he said. On the other hand, he added, the nonrecognition of the Popular Movement and the referral of the Angola issue to the

reconcile the two watered-down resolutions, neither side would give in and the reconciliation committee gave up. The result was no resolution at all on the Angola crisis and its settlement.

On the whole, it appeared that the three-day conference had narrowly avoided irreparable damage to the already fragile African organization structure at the expense of pushing through what Senegalese President Leopold Senghor called a "dynamic compromise."

One of the most surprising developments at the conference was the speed with which the anti-Popular

executive bureau for future action showed "the maturity of our organization."

Also expressing general satisfaction with the outcome was Zaire's foreign minister, Mandungu Bula Nyeta, whose government has long been the prime African backer of the National Front-UNITA-Coalition.

He explained to reporters what had happened behind closed doors of the Africa Hall throughout last night's long deliberations as African leaders struggled to find some compromise between the Nigerian and Senegalese resolutions.

Nigeria, he said, had in-

troduced before a 10-member reconciliation committee of the conference a watered-down resolution no longer demanding recognition of the Popular Movement but calling for the specific condemnation of South Africa and the immediate withdrawal of its troops from Angola.

The block supporting the other side had countered with a second resolution agreeing to the condemnation of South Africa, but "We also demanded the condemnation of the Soviet Union, Cuba and other satellite powers" that had intervened in Angola, he said.

After a two-hour hassle to

Movement states coalesced into their own bloc and their determination to hold out for their demands and principles.

Another surprise was the unexpected "soft" support of several countries for the Popular Movement even after they had formally recognized it. Even Nigeria, which had conducted an active public-

relations campaign throughout Africa on the movement's behalf, proved in the end ready to compromise for the sake of national reconciliation in Angola.

These two developments explain the last-minute weakness of the pro-Popular Movement bloc and the unexpected strength of the pro-UNITA and National Front bloc that together ended in the deadlock.

Soviets Deny Story Of Ship Off Angola

Reuter

MOSCOW, Jan. 13—The Soviet Union again today denied that any of its warships were near Angola and said reports from Washington of alleged Soviet naval activity in the area were a Pentagon "fabrication."

The official Tass news agency said "imperialist circles" were using the allegation to exert pressure on leaders of the Organization of African Unity in an attempt to influence their standpoint on the Angola question.

It was the fourth time that Tass had denied U.S. allegations of Soviet naval movements near Angola and followed Washington reports last night on the alleged presence of a Soviet guided-missile destroyer and amphibious-tank landing ship.



Three South African and two Portuguese prisoners are displayed at the African summit by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

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